

Melting Ice Cap Notes

Whats Happening

- Over the past 25 years, the average annual Arctic sea ice area has decreased by about five percent and summer sea ice area has decreased by roughly 15 percent.
 - The temperature has risen about half a degree
 - This has a major effect on the climate and ecozones
 - The sea level has risen 6-8 inches
 - This is because of global warming
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- The main ice covered landmass is Antarctica at the South Pole, with about 90 percent of the world's ice (and 70 percent of its fresh water).
 - Antarctica is covered with ice an average of 2,133 meters (7,000 feet) thick.
 - If it melted sea levels would rise about 61 meters

What Will Happen

- Sea levels would rise
- Ecozones would die
- Shore lines would disappear making landmasses smaller
- Since ecozones would be in danger, species around the world would die
- This would mess up our foodchain
- Both humans and animals would have habitat displacement

The ice caps melting is mostly due to the GreenHouse Effect

The Greenhouse Effect

- Heat enters out atmosphere
- Some gets absorbed and some gets reflected
- A lot of the solar energy gets reflected back by the atmosphere
- And it goes and repeats

How We Can Stop This

- Using less gas emissions (ex. Cars)
- Recycling
- Plant more trees
- Use better light bulbs

Ex. Polar Bears die, too many fish, fish eat all organisms, oceans die, all fish die, animals and humans don't have enough food, we die

Ten Indicators of a Warming World

- Air Temperature Near Surface (Troposphere)
- Humidity
- Temperature Over Oceans
- Sea Surface Temperature
- Sea Ice
- Ocean Heat Content
- Temperature Over Land
- River Discharge
- Precipitation

